

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A nuclear, biological, and chemical (NBC) filtration unit for use with a portable environmental control unit (ECU) comprising:

a first air flow path allowing air flow from an external environment, wherein air passes through a said filtration unit, and to said ECU without said air passing through an NBC filter;

a second air flow path allowing air flow from said environment, wherein air passes through an NBC filter in said filtration unit and to said ECU; through an NBC filter; and

a controller allowing said filtration unit to switch from passing air through said first air flow path to said second airflow path and from said second air flow path to said first air flow path repeatedly without said NBC filter being removed from said filtration unit; and

a plurality of valves arranged in said first and second air flow path and controlled by said controller;

wherein, prior to said controller switching from said second air flow path to said first air flow path, said plurality of valves are arranged so that air passes along said second air flow path from said environment through said filtration unit and said NBC filter and then through said first air flow path back to said environment to purge said first air flow path of any contaminants in said first air flow path.

2. (original) The filtration unit of claim 1 wherein said switching between said first air flow path and said second air flow path is performed without human intervention.

3. (original) The filtration unit of claim 1 wherein said switching between said first airflow path and said second air flow path is commanded by a human operator at a remote location.

4. (original) The filtration unit of claim 3 wherein said remote location is inside a shelter utilizing said ECU for environmental control.

5. (original) The filtration unit of claim 4 wherein said command is sent via a wireless technology.
6. (previously presented) The filtration unit of claim 5 wherein said wireless technology is Bluetooth™.
7. (Currently Amended) The filtration unit of claim 1 further comprising a third air flow path wherein air passes through another NBC filter in said filtration unit and to said ECU, said plurality of valves being distributed across said first, second and third air flow paths, ~~through another NBC filter~~ and said controller can switch freely between said first, second, and third air flow paths.
8. (original) The filtration unit of claim 7 wherein said second air flow path and said third air flow path are generally symmetrical.
9. (original) The filtration unit of claim 7 wherein said NBC filter in said second air flow path need not be changed when it has reached the end of its useful life as said controller may switch to said NBC filter in said third air flow path.
10. (Currently Amended) The filtration unit of claim ~~9~~ 7 wherein said plurality of valves may be arranged so that said second air flow path may be purged by air from said third air flow path when said NBC filter in said second air flow path is being changed, and said third air flow path may be purged by air from said second air flow path when said NBC filter in said third air flow path is being changed ~~air flow may be switched from said second air flow path to said third air flow path without any unfiltered air being provided to said ECU.~~
11. (original) The filtration unit of claim 7 wherein each of said second and said third air flow path includes a blower.

12. (original) The filtration unit of claim 7 further comprising an inlet manifold and a blower wherein said inlet manifold allows said blower to direct said air down either said second or said third air flow path.
13. (original) The filtration unit of claim 12 wherein said inlet manifold also allows said blower to direct said air down both said second and said third air flow path simultaneously.
14. (original) The filtration unit of claim 1 wherein said NBC filter comprises a deep active carbon bed filter.
15. (original) The filtration unit of claim 1 wherein said first air flow path includes a filter which is not an NBC filter.
16. (Previously Presented) The filtration unit of claim 1 wherein said ECU is a field deployable ECU (FDECU) or light ECU (LECU).
17. (original) The filtration unit of claim 1 wherein air is at least partially pulled through said first air path by a blower in said ECU.
18. (original) The filtration unit of claim 1 wherein air is at least partially pushed through said NBC filter by a blower in said second air path.
- 19.-20. (Cancelled)
21. (New) A nuclear, biological, and chemical (NBC) filtration unit for use with a portable environmental control unit (ECU) comprising:
 - a first air flow path allowing air flow from an external environment, through a first NBC filter in said filtration unit and to an ECU;
 - a second air flow path allowing air flow from said environment, through a second NBC filter in said filtration unit and to said ECU;

a controller allowing said filtration unit to switch from passing air through said first air flow path to said second airflow path and from said second air flow path to said first air flow path repeatedly; and

a plurality of valves distributed across said first and second air flow path and controlled by said controller;

wherein said plurality of valves may be arranged so that said first air flow path may be purged by air from said second air flow path when said NBC filter in said first air flow path is being changed, and said second air flow path may be purged by air from said first air flow path when said NBC filter in said second air flow path is being changed; and

wherein, when an air flow path is purged, air from said purge is provided to said environment and not to said ECU.

22. (New) The filtration unit of claim 21:

wherein during said purging of said second air flow path, filtered air is also flowing into said ECU; and

wherein during said purging of said third air flow path, filtered air is also flowing into said ECU.

23. (New) A filtration unit comprising:

means to force air through a first air flow path said first air flow path providing nuclear, biological and chemical (NBC) filtered air to a shelter;

means to force air through a second air flow path said second air flow path providing NBC filtered air to said shelter;

means to select which air flow path air is flowing through;

means to purge said first air flow path using air from said second air flow path while still providing NBC filtered air to said shelter; and

means to purge said second air flow path using air from said first air flow path while still providing NBC filtered air to said shelter.